CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for irrotationally locking a motor-vehicle steering shaft comprising a locking bolt axially reciprocable within a housing between a locked position and a release position, said locking bolt being fixable in its locked position by a spring-loaded securing pin which is axially displaceable in said housing;

said securing pin in its locking bolt fixing position cooperating with a lateral recess of the locking bolt such that upon removal of a housing portion that is fitted with an arm retaining the securing pin against its spring load, the securing pin is released to cooperate with said recess to fix the locking bolt in its locked position;

said retaining arm extending through a matching cavity in the housing and normally engaging the securing pin behind (as seen from the locking bolt) a spring biasing the pin towards the locking bolt and retaining the securing pin against the bias of said spring and being an end of the securing pin remote from the locking bolt being located before (as seen from the locking bolt) said cavity of the housing when an other end of the pin closer to the locking bolt engages the recess of said locking bolt to fix the locking bolt;

said securing pin being neither visible nor accessible through the cavity when the cavity is unoccupied by said retaining arm and in the open state, and the securing pin is moved to its locking bolt fixing position with its end closer to the locking bolt engaging the locking bolt recess.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining arm extends parallel to the locking bolt.

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing portion provided with the retaining arm is a removable sealing lid for an assembly aperture in the housing.

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the housing has a side located toward the steering shaft and a side located away from the steering shaft, the assembly aperture being located on that side of the housing which is located away from the steering shaft.

5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining arm is a rod and projects through the cavity in the form of a shaft toward the securing pin.

6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining arm engages an end of the securing pin located away from the locking bolt.

7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said end of the securing pin away from the locking bolt has a disk-shape and is engaged by a free end of the retaining arm.

8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the securing pin extends through and is is loaded by a helical compression spring which at an end away from the locking bolt rests against an annular shoulder of the housing and at an end near the locking bolt rests against an annular projection of the securing pin.

9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the securing pin extends radially with respect to the longitudinal axis of the locking bolt.

10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the lateral recess of the locking bolt is a blind hole.